REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 26, 2004. Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 16-34 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 8 and 15, the independent claims, and Claims 9-11 and 13 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,559,933 (Boswell), and Claims 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Boswell* in view of U.S. Patent 6,639,690 (Yamazaki).

Cancellation of Claims 16-34 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer, in response to a print request from one of the terminal devices. The claimed apparatus comprises specifying means for specifying the terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request from one of the terminal devices. Also provided are first designating means for instructing the terminal device so specified to transfer the image information to a printer, without the image information instruction passing through the information processing apparatus. In addition, management means are provided for managing record information including printing date of the printing performed by the printer according to the instruction.

Thus, the apparatus to which Claim 1 is directed, is not one which merely stores received printing data and transfers that data to a printer, but rather is one that instructs a specified terminal device to transfer image information to a printer without

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storage (of the printing data) in the claimed apparatus, this instruction being issued in response to a print request from one or plural terminal devices connected via a network. By virtue of this feature, it is possible to reduce processing time and network traffic without using a large-capacity storage device in the claimed apparatus for storing the image information that is to be printed. In addition, it is possible to manage information (including printing data) based on instructions to transfer image information from a terminal device to a printer, without the image information having to be stored in a large-capacity storage of the claimed apparatus along the way. This is advantageous as compared with a conventional print server, which stores a print file and transfers the file to a printer connected to the server.

Boswell has been discussed in previous papers, and illustrates a transfer technique for a print file (see Figs. 6A - 6D), for use in transferring such a file between two PCs, between a PC and a mainframe (Fig. 4), or between mainframes (Fig. 5). In the Boswell system, the Distributed Enterprise Printer Controller ("DEPCON") mainframe component picks up a print file from a mainframe print queue and sends the file to another mainframe, which places the print file on the correct print queue (col. 10, lines 17-25).

Even if Boswell be deemed to show transferring print jobs from a print queue on one mainframe to a print queue on another rmainframe, that is not believed to teach or suggest the recited first designation means, which instructs the terminal device that has been specified to transfer the image information to a printer, such that the image information does not pass through the information processing apparatus. For at least this reason, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over Boswell.

Independent Claims 8 and 15 are respectively a method claim and a memory-medium claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are both deemed

allowable over *Boswell* for the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.
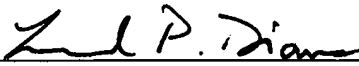
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of independent Claims 1 and 8, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; at the very least, cancellation of Claims 16-34 eliminates all issues relating to those claims. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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